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SACRAMENTO WOMAN GETS 30 MONTHS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR SELLING VALID CITIZENSHIP DOCUMENTS FOR USE BY ILLEGAL ALIENS

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced that LUZ BHULLAR, 42, of Sacramento, was sentenced today to 30 months in prison by United States District Judge David F. Levi for selling citizenship documents for unlawful use, unlawful sale of social security numbers, and aggravated identity theft. She was also ordered to pay a \$300 penalty assessment, and will serve 3 years on federal supervision following her prison sentence. BHULLAR pleaded guilty to the offenses on May 19, 2006.

The case was investigated by the Sacramento Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Michelle Rodriguez, who prosecuted the case, BHULLAR sold valid Puerto Rican birth certificates and matching social security numbers for fraudulent use and identity theft. BHULLAR marketed the citizenship documents for use by illegal aliens residing in the United States and to persons who wish to come into the United States via falsely obtained passports. In 2005, BHULLAR sold a set of citizenship and matching SSA documents for \$1,200, and on another occasion sold a second set for \$1,500. In court documents, BHULLAR admitted the citizenship papers were for use by undocumented individuals to gain citizenship, or to acquire or to apply for other legitimate state or federal documents.

In May 2003, BHULLAR's husband, DAVINDER SINGH BHULLAR, 47, was indicted in Sacramento on federal charges of conspiracy to bribe State Department employees and visa fraud. Ten other defendants, including two State Department employees, were convicted in that case, which involved a scheme to obtain fraudulent visas. DAVINDER SINGH BHULLAR, formerly of Sacramento, is currently a fugitive.

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